

ANTHONY MUSGRAVE, 1895-1959.

*(Memorial Series No. 18.)**(With Portrait, Plate v.)*

The sudden death at home, from heart attack, of Mr. Anthony Musgrave, Curator of Entomology at the Australian Museum, Sydney, on 4th June, 1959, is mourned by all his colleagues and by a wide circle of friends.

Only two evenings before his death Mr. Musgrave had delivered the Froggatt Memorial Lecture at the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales in his usual high-spirited way. He enjoyed lecturing just as his audience enjoyed listening to him and none there present suspected this was his swansong. The lecture epitomized his main interests: his zealous devotion to natural history; painstaking study of all aspects of his subject matter (historical, zoological and botanical); his extensive reading and verification of sources, and his ability to produce lantern slides of great technical excellence and beauty. He had studied art under Julian Ashton, and used to illustrate his early scientific papers with his own drawings. He was active in the field and almost every year would spend some time in the bush collecting insects, writing detailed observations and photographing anything likely to be of later use.

Anthony Musgrave was born at Cooktown, Queensland, on 9th July, 1895, and was educated at Hayfield Preparatory School, Homebush, and at the Church of England Grammar School, North Sydney. He joined the staff of the Australian Museum as a cadet on 7th February, 1910. "Your salary", he was informed, "will be at the rate of Twenty-six pounds (£26) per annum, payable monthly. The Trustees make no promise as to future increases, and its continuance is dependent on the necessary funds being voted by Parliament . . ." Five years later, when, as Entomologist's Assistant he was receiving £90 a year, he was further advised, "You must be prepared to suffer reductions, if required. Those who are now granted slight increases must specially note this as they may possibly be the first to suffer if such should unfortunately be necessary." After a year in the Museum library, Musgrave, still in his teens, was appointed assistant (in the place of Rex Brettnall) to the then entomologist, "Scientific Assistant" W. J. Rainbow. At school Musgrave had excelled at English, Latin and French, but now he studied Zoology as well at the Sydney Technical College, later proceeding to Professor S. J. Johnston's lectures at the University of Sydney. He passed the necessary examinations but did not take a full course for a degree. On 1st June, 1920, after Rainbow's death, Musgrave was appointed Entomologist, a title later altered to Curator of Entomology. A portrait of him at that time appeared in the Sydney newspaper, *Sun*, 19th June, 1920. He had been a keen member of the Linnean Society of New South Wales since April, 1920, sometimes exhibiting specimens at its meetings, and was a member of its subcommittee on Phenological Observations. He joined the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales in 1920 and was a member of its Council from 1920 to 1935, was elected President in 1929-1930 and a Fellow in 1933. He had contributed papers to that Society's publications from 1917 to just before his death and several others are in the press. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London and a member of the Royal Australian Historical Society from 1950, serving on the Council of the last-named in 1956 and 1957.

He had a wide interest in and knowledge of insects and arachnida, but chose to specialize in Hemiptera and Diptera (notably Nycteribiidae), spiders and ticks. Above all, he was keen to analyse and card-catalogue the vast literature on Australasian and Pacific entomology. His bibliographical work was amazingly detailed; not only

would he personally check every reference to every available book and paper, but he determined exact dates of publication, and recorded biographies of their authors and the routes and dates of scientific expeditions upon which insects and arachnida were collected. Musgrave's monumental *Bibliography of Australian Entomology 1775-1930 with Biographical Notes on Authors and Collectors* was published by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales in 1932 and was kept up-to-date on cards. It is hoped that it will be possible to publish not only the manuscript addenda to that work, but also his card-index bibliography of Pacific entomology and his manuscript check-lists of Australian arachnids and weevils. For about twenty years, Mr. Musgrave compiled all the zoological entries for *Australian Science Abstracts* until they ceased publication in 1957. Musgrave's 1932 *Bibliography* was evidently the model for H. M. Whittell's *Literature of Australian Birds* (1954) and David Miller's *Bibliography of New Zealand Entomology* (1956).

Musgrave wrote articles for both the first (1925) and second (1958) issues of the *Australian Encyclopaedia* and contributed many papers to the *Australian Museum Magazine* and the proceedings of scientific societies. Nearly two hundred titles appear in the list of his publications. Besides bibliography, these cover such subjects as arachnida (especially venomous spiders), various insects, accounts of his collecting trips, separate biographies of entomologists,* historical papers, book reviews, and notes on photography and collecting techniques. He wrote a history of his native Cooktown for the Royal Australian Historical Society, and was a joint author of the comprehensive Index (1958) to the articles, authors and illustrations in the first forty-two volumes of that Society's *Journal*.

Beginning with a youthful survey of the insects of the Sydney Botanic Gardens for Rainbow and with an official trip to the Barrington Tops, New South Wales, in 1916, Musgrave carried out field work in every State of the Commonwealth except Western Australia and the Northern Territory and he had visited New Guinea, the Great Barrier Reef and Lord Howe Island. In 1934 he journeyed overseas to England and Ireland. Although on leave, he slaved at entomology and bibliography almost every day and night, as is attested by his very detailed diary; he also completed many short biographies of arachnologists. He represented the Trustees of the Australian Museum at the Museums Association conference at Bristol in July, 1934, and enjoyed a visit to Europe with his kind friends, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Griffin, before returning to Australia via the United States. Colonel Griffin has recalled their meeting in his sympathetic notice of Musgrave in the *Journal of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History* 3 (7), October, 1960: 381.

Anthony Musgrave placed himself at the disposal of his country in both World Wars, applying for enlistment at Victoria Barracks in 1916, but he was not required for active service. In 1940, he contributed a considerable sum to the Commonwealth Treasury for National Defence purposes. He studied First Aid and in 1941 was a Warden, prepared to act under the National Emergency Services of New South Wales. From March, 1942, till September, 1945, N.303655 Driver Anthony Musgrave served on part-time war service in the Australian Military Forces (8th V.D.C. Battalion).

Musgrave's entire professional life was spent in the service of The Australian Museum where it is fittingly proposed to name a new reading room in the library (to which he gave so many books and papers) in his memory.

He trained a series of assistants: Mr. T. G. Campbell (now of C.S.I.R.O. Division of Economic Entomology, Canberra), the late K. C. McKeown, the late Nancy B. Adams, Mr. D. K. McAlpine, Miss P. Goodwin (now Mrs. R. Ford), Mr. Peter Rawlings and Miss Romola Wilkinson.

* These were: Adams, 1955; Baum, 1946; Bertram, 1928; Corbet, 1948; Dodd, 1924; French, 1933; Froggatt, 1937; Hopson, 1928; Horn, 1946; Lea, 1932; Middleton, 1951; Phillips, 1938; Rainbow, 1920; Shaw, 1931; Sherborn, 1932; Stephen, 1931; Stuart, 1948 and 1955 (two references); Tonnoir, 1940; Turner, 1949; and Waterhouse, 1930 and 1951 (two references).

He disliked publicity. His name hardly ever appeared in newspapers and he declined radio and television interviews, yet he identified thousands of specimens for a regular, sometimes overwhelming, stream of museum visitors. He was not greatly interested in the social or welfare-work of the museum staff, yet everyone respected him for his helpfulness, which was generously at their disposal whenever required. Golf had been his favourite weekend relaxation. He was fond of good plays, ballet and music and knew by heart and sang many of Gilbert and Sullivan's lyrics which, like *Punch*, appealed to his rich sense of humour. Apart from the tremendous amount of reading his bibliographical researches entailed, he found time to delve widely in the literature of travel and philosophy and, as for fiction, he told me that of all the novels he had read, Talbot Mundy's *Om* had made the greatest impact on him.

Musgrave never married and is survived by his sister, Mrs. Frances Hatton; a niece, Mrs. Peter Coombs, and cousins.

In his Presidential Address to the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, Mr. Musgrave divided the history of Australian entomological research into three periods: the Fabrician (1770-1830), the Westwoodian (1831-1861) and the Macleayan (1862-1929). Insofar as one man can influence such a grand scheme as the whole of Australian entomology, zoologists of the future, in view of Anthony Musgrave's ordering of the scattered literature on this subject, might well consider the designation of a Musgravian period from 1930 to 1959.

Anthony Musgrave was descended from an old and distinguished North of England family whose coat of arms with its annulets he bore. "The Musgraves", says Burke's *Genealogical History of the Dormant . . . Peerages of the British Empire*, "are said to have come originally from Germany, and to have been Musgraves or Lords Marchers there". Banks tells the following story of their good fortune in obtaining an alliance with the imperial family. "The emperor had two great generals, who made court to his daughter at the same time . . . to decide the matter [he] ordered the two heroes to run at the ring for her (an exercise then in use); it so happened that this Musgrave (one of the contending generals) had the fortune to pierce the ring with the point of his spear; by which action he gained her for a reward . . . and had 'six annulets, or' given him for his coat of arms . . . From this marriage issued that Musgrave who . . . accompanied William the Conqueror into England, and was the founder of the Musgraves in this country."

Baron Musgrave (A.D. 1350) was active in border struggles against the Scotch and descended from him were the Musgraves of Eden Hall, Cumberland, created Baronets in 1611, and two other lines of baronets. The famous 13th century Syrian glass beaker, known as the "Luck of Edenhall", a relic of the Musgrave family, was featured in *The Museum Journal* for February, 1959. The lineage of our Anthony Musgrave can be linked from Burke's *History of the Colonial Gentry* to William Musgrave who settled in Montserrat in the 18th century.

Three gentlemen each with the name Anthony Musgrave distinguished themselves in Australia, so a few notes on the family may not be out of place and may simplify matters for future historical students.

First, the one in whose memory these lines are written, Mr. Anthony Musgrave (1895-1959), Fellow of the Royal Entomological and Zoological Societies.

Second, his father, the Hon. Anthony Musgrave,* C.M.G. (1849-1912), a Deputy Commissioner and later Government Secretary of British New Guinea.

* Mr. Musgrave's sister (Mrs. Frances Hatton) has a 1907 photograph of her father which was reproduced on the Address to him (also in her possession) printed at Port Moresby and presented to him by Chief Judicial Officer J. H. P. Murray and fourteen others on 16th May, 1908, an outstanding example of Papuan printing (see *Notes of Proceedings at the Presentation . . . to the Hon. A. Musgrave, C.M.G. . . . 1908*, printed at the "Beacon" Office, Cooktown, 7 pages, in which his career was summarized). Biographical particulars of the Hon. A. Musgrave were also given in the *Telegraph* newspaper, Brisbane, for 4th December, 1908, and 8th June, 1912.

The third Anthony Musgrave, the one after whom the Musgrave Ranges in Central Australia were named, was Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G. (1828-1888), great-uncle of our entomological colleague, who had been Governor of several Colonies, also of South Australia and Queensland.* Mr. Anthony Musgrave's father was private secretary to his uncle, Sir Anthony, in various parts of the world.

On his mother's side, our late friend's ancestry can be linked to William Colles, (born 1585) of the 13th century family of Worcester county (Glascott, J. H., and Rev. W. Morris Colles, *The Pedigree of the Family of Colles in Ireland*, printed for private circulation by Spottiswoode, London, 1886).

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[A full bibliography of Musgrave's writings, so far published, appeared in the Proceedings of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, 1958-59 (published 1961), pages 12-20.]

G.P.W.

* C. A. Bernays gave a biography and portrait in an article entitled "Sir Anthony Musgrave, G.C.M.G." in the *Brisbane Courier* newspaper for 16th December, 1922. See also the *Australian Encyclopaedia*, 1958.